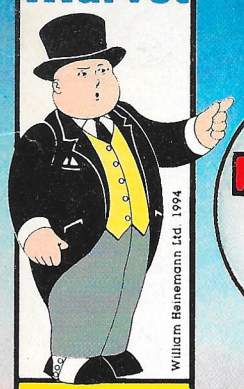
Marvel



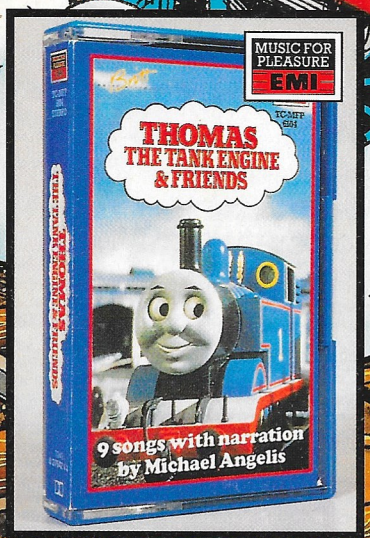
William Heinemann Ltd. 1994

11th Mar.'94
No 167 65p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

WIN A THOMAS CASSETTE INSIDE!



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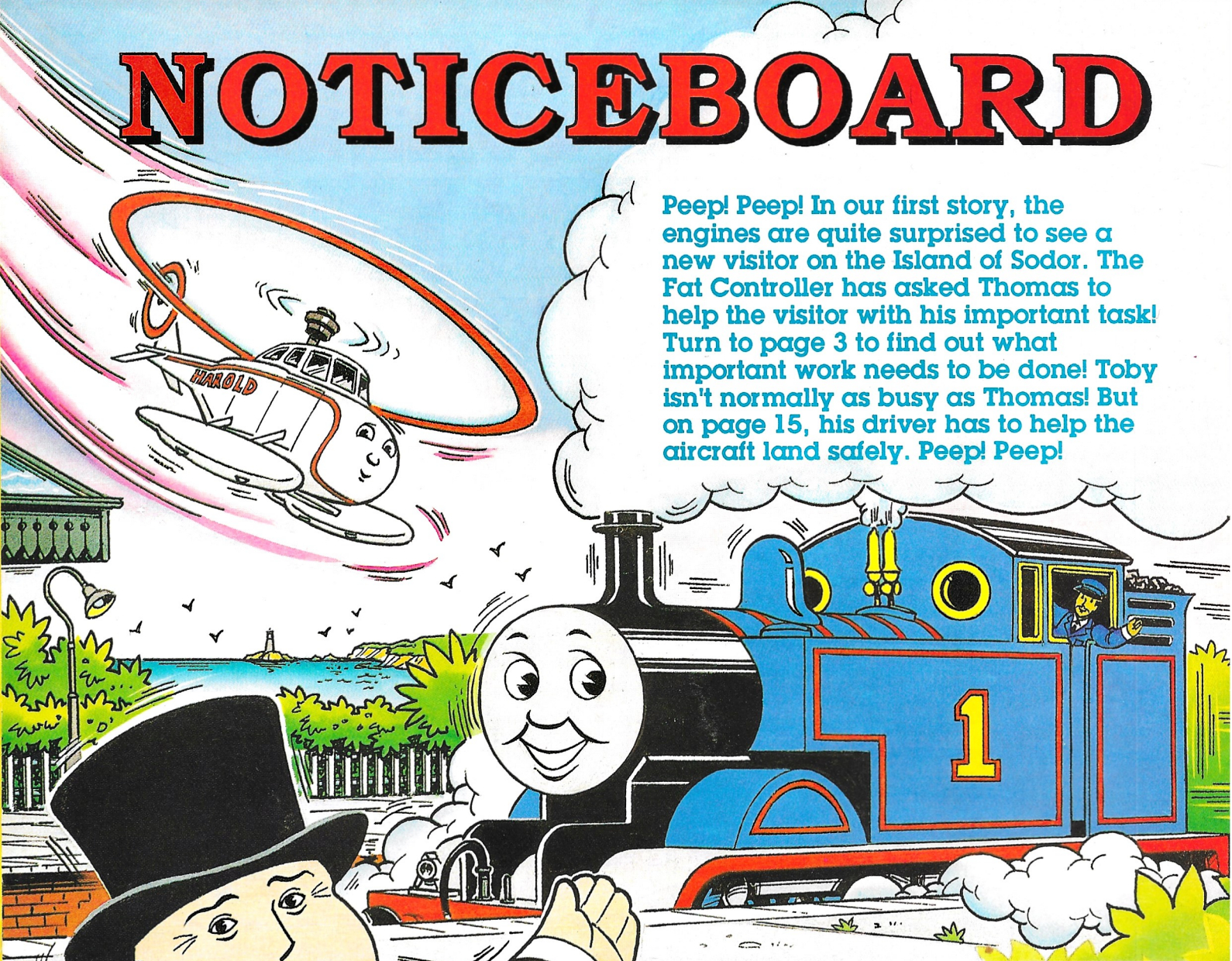

Peep! Peep! In our first story, the engines are quite surprised to see a new visitor on the Island of Sodor. The Fat Controller has asked Thomas to help the visitor with his important task! Turn to page 3 to find out what important work needs to be done! Toby isn't normally as busy as Thomas! But on page 15, his driver has to help the aircraft land safely. Peep! Peep!

How to obtain your Fat Controller's Card!

If you would like to receive your very own splendid **Fat Controller's Card** send one red, yellow and blue token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: **The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.**

Name .....

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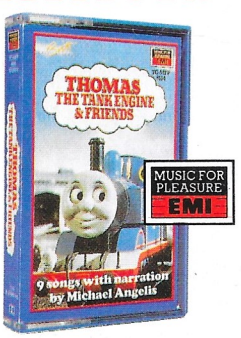
THOMAS TOKEN

SPECIAL COMPETITION!

Turn to page **13** for your chance to win your very own collection of Thomas songs and narration on a special **Thomas Cassette**, courtesy of *Music for Pleasure, E M I Records.*



IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Don't miss issue **168** of *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends* for your chance to win a splendid Thomas outfit from the new Woolworths Ladybird Range. **WOOLWORTHS**

ABC CONSUMER PRESS

THE MOVIES
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

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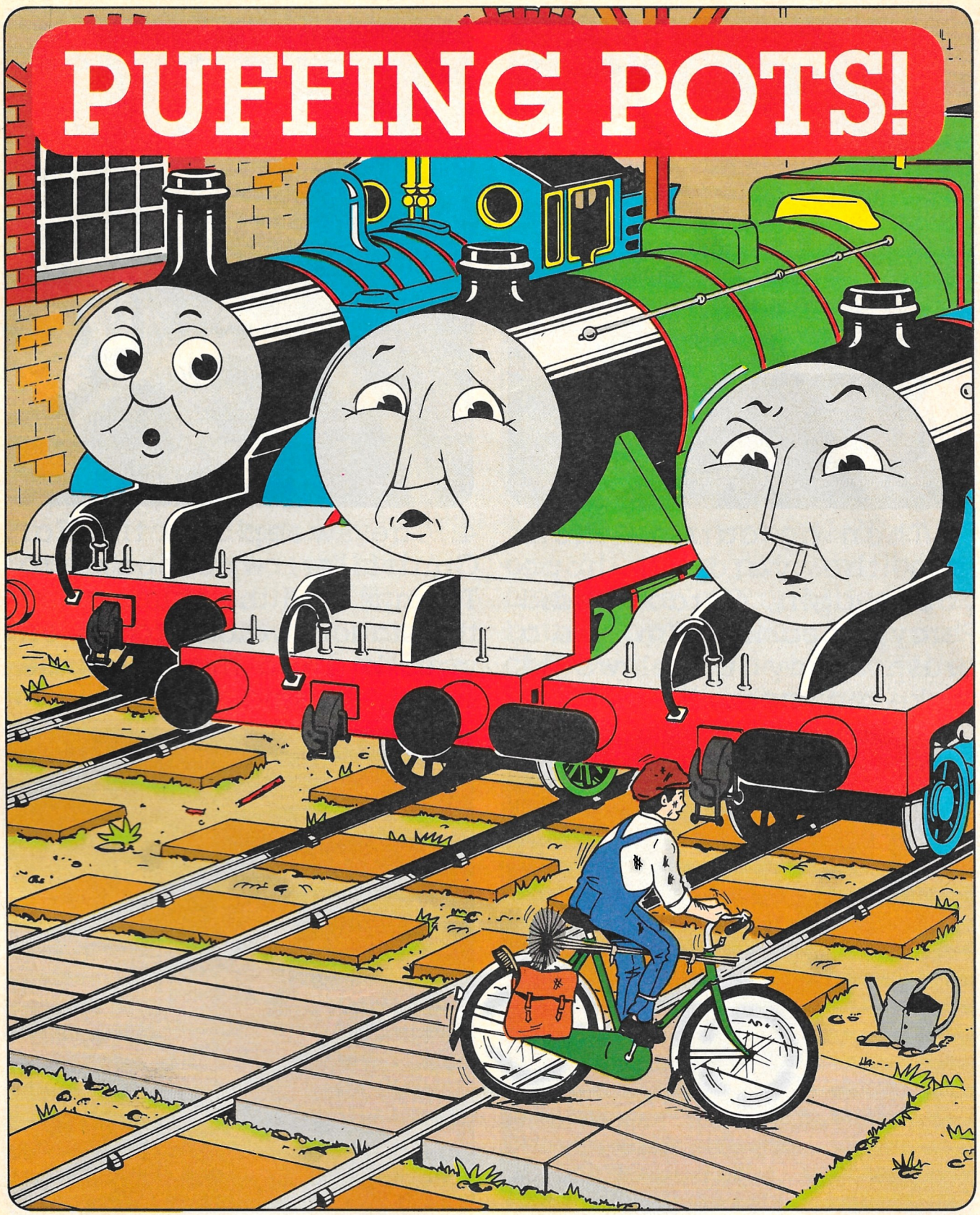
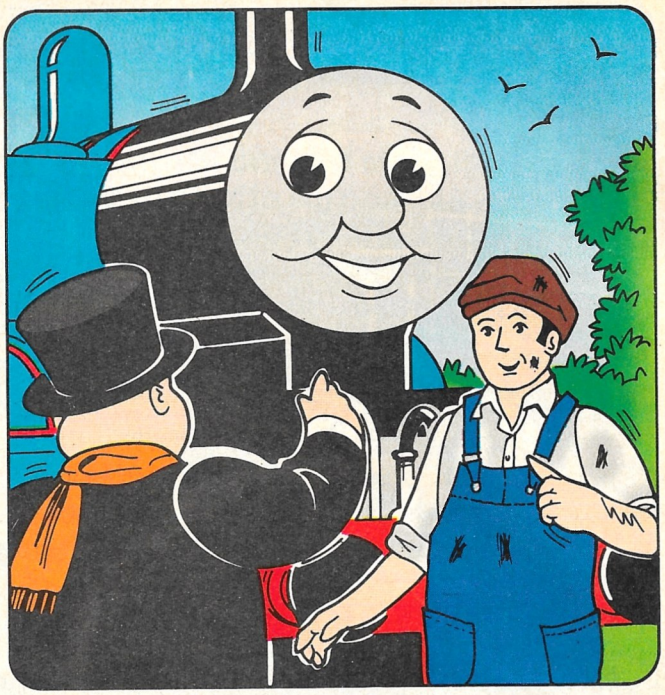
PUFFING POTS!



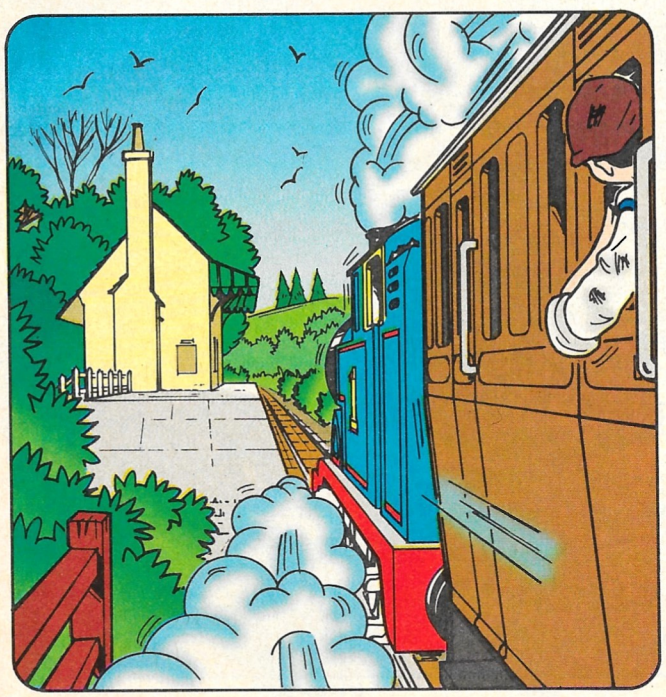
1. When a chimney-sweep cycled up to the Main Station one morning, the engines were surprised. "Has he come to sweep our funnels?" asked Henry.

2. "Pah! Engines don't use sweeps!" snorted Gordon. "If we need servicing, we go to the Works!" Meanwhile, the sweep untied some poles and a brush from his bike.

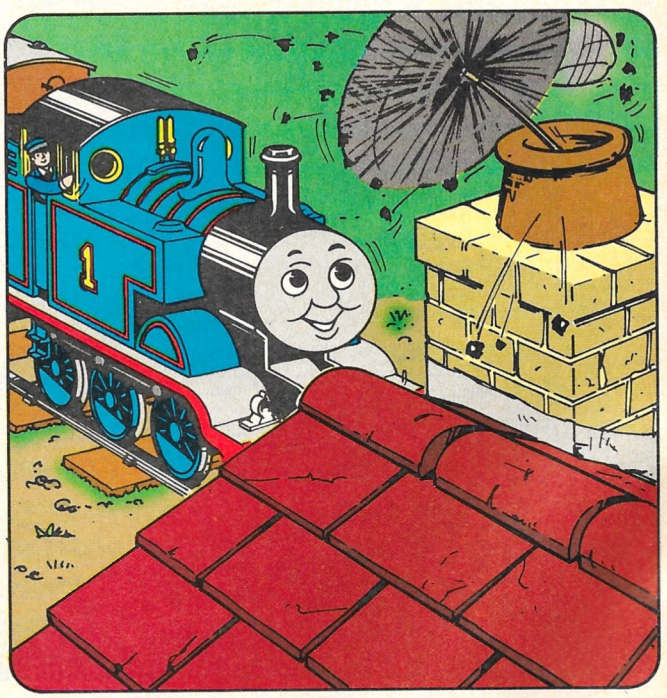
3. Then he carried them into the yard. "I hope you're right, Gordon!" said Percy, uneasily. "I'm sure a brush in my funnel would make me sneeze!"



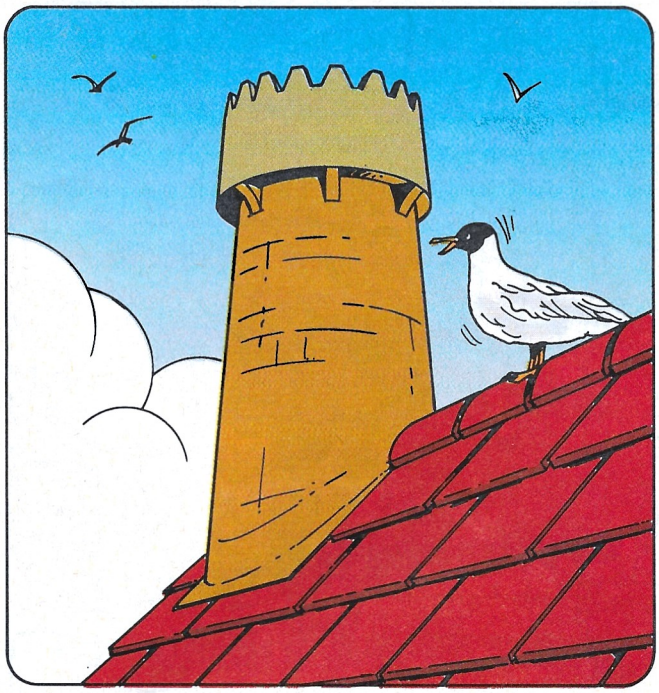
4. The sweep met the Fat Controller, who spoke to Thomas. "All the chimneys in the station waiting-rooms on your branch-line must be swept," he said.



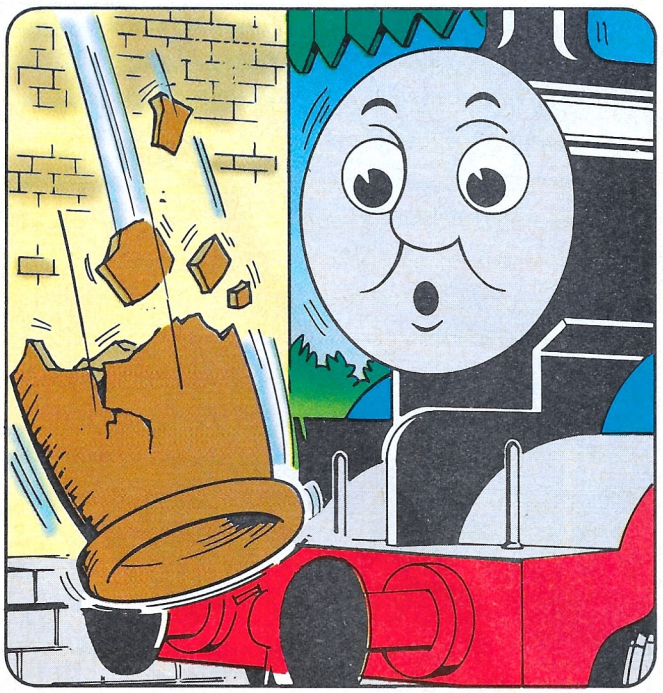
5. Thomas was coupled to Annie and then set off with the sweep. Thomas felt Really Useful to be given such an important task, but it was a long, slow job.



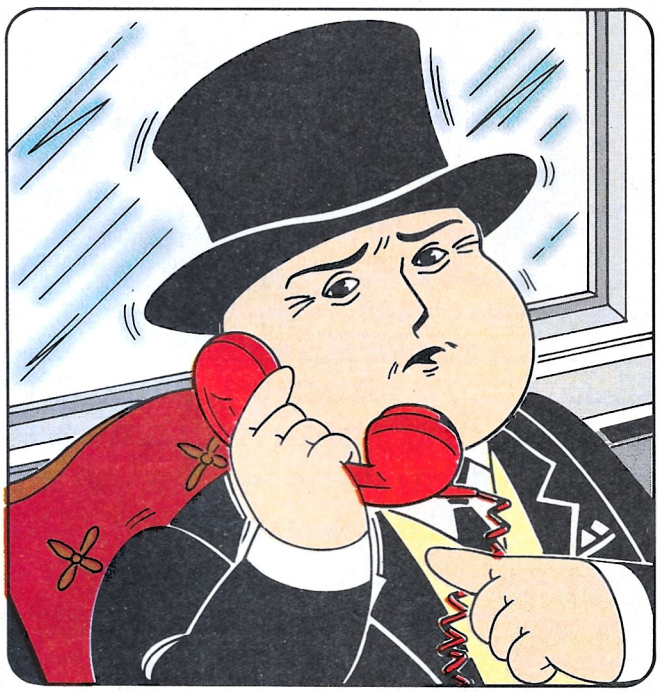
6. Visiting station after station, Thomas watched the sweep's brush pop out the top of each chimney. "It's meant to bring good luck!" called his driver.



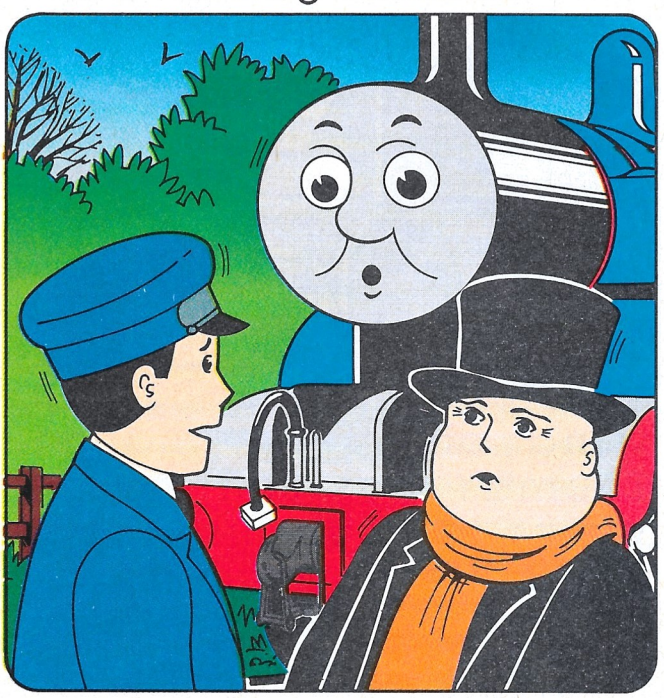
7. The tall chimney-pots reminded Thomas of steam-engine funnels. "Those sooty pots puff out smoke from coal, just like I do!" he told his driver.



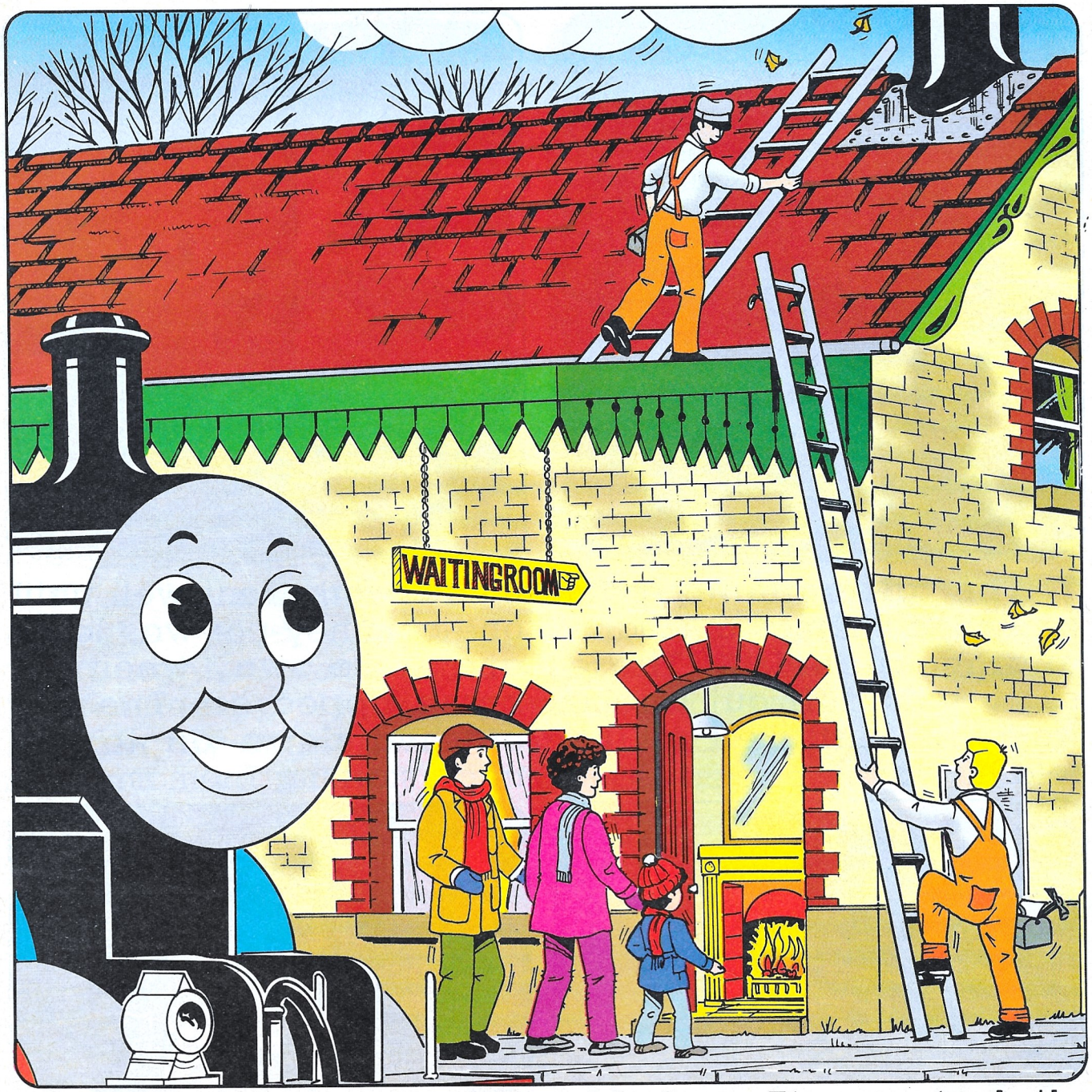
8. The work went well until one chimney-pot was loose and broke away when the brush appeared. The pot crashed down on to the track, startling Thomas.



9. Luckily, no one was hurt. Later, at the Main Station, the Fat Controller ordered a new chimney-pot, but was told it would not be ready for a fortnight.



10. The Fat Controller was worried. "It's turning colder!" he said. "The passengers must have a coal-fire in the waiting room to keep them warm!"



11. Next morning, a chill wind blew. By chance, Thomas was sent to the Works to have his wheels oiled. He noticed an old engine funnel on a bench and learned it was not wanted any more. Later, Thomas spoke to the Fat Controller about it. "What a grand idea!" he said as Thomas explained.

12. Soon Thomas took the funnel and some workmen to the station where the chimney-pot had broken. The men fitted the funnel on top of the chimney so a welcome fire could be lit in the waiting-room, much to the passengers' delight. "That funnel makes a fine pot until the proper one is ready!" grinned Thomas.

THE END!

In our next issue: Helping Harold!

SPRING SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

the Video COLLECTION

Peep! Peep! Don't miss our new Springtime collection of stories. Thomas Collected Edition No.14 is on sale now! Order your copy today! You can enter a special Competition courtesy of the Video Collection (see below).

ON SALE NOW!

The new Spring Bumper Video is packed with 18 of your favourite spring-time stories and our videos from the TV series include stories such as "Time for Trouble", "Trust Thomas", and "Escape".

©Britt Allcroft (Thomas)Ltd.

Material reprinted from Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends issues 82, 84, 85, 86, 88 & 89.

TREASURE HUNTING TRACTOR!

Percy was feeling very cheerful as he puffed along the seaside line, pulling a works train full of men and equipment. The sun was shining and the sea was blue.

On steamed Percy, beyond the pier and seaside amusements, until he approached a sandy bay. He rolled into a siding between the beach and a field. Then the men began to unload Percy's trucks.

Nearby, Terence the Tractor was ploughing the field. As he chugged closer to Percy, he saw the men carrying spades down to the beach.

"Hello, Percy!" he called. "What are they up to?"

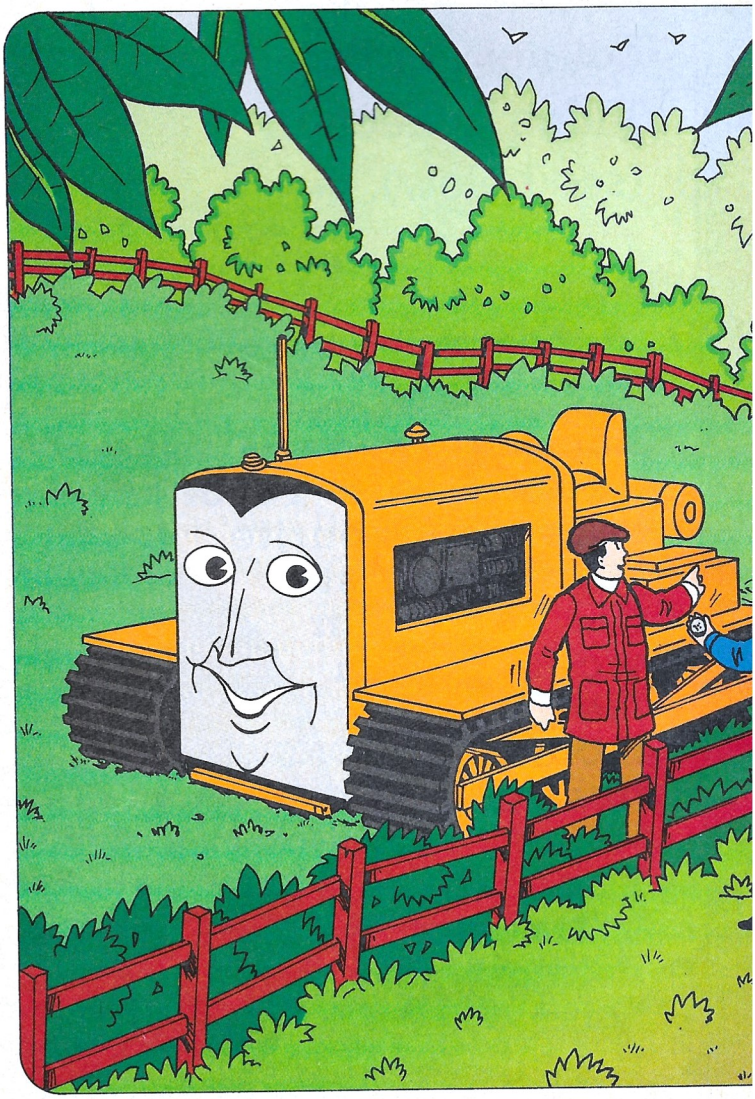
"Digging for buried treasure!" said Percy, who enjoyed nothing more than teasing Terence or the other engines.

"How exciting!" gasped Terence. "I wish I could, too!" As Terence went slowly up and down the field, he watched the work in the bay. Now he was puzzled because the men were unloading timber from Percy's trucks and building a low wooden wall across the sand towards the sea.

"How will that help them discover treasure?" he thought. Terence was so interested in what was going on, he didn't watch where he was going. He pulled the plough over a rough corner of the field and almost landed in a ditch.

"Look out!" called his driver who had to climb down and check the plough was not damaged.

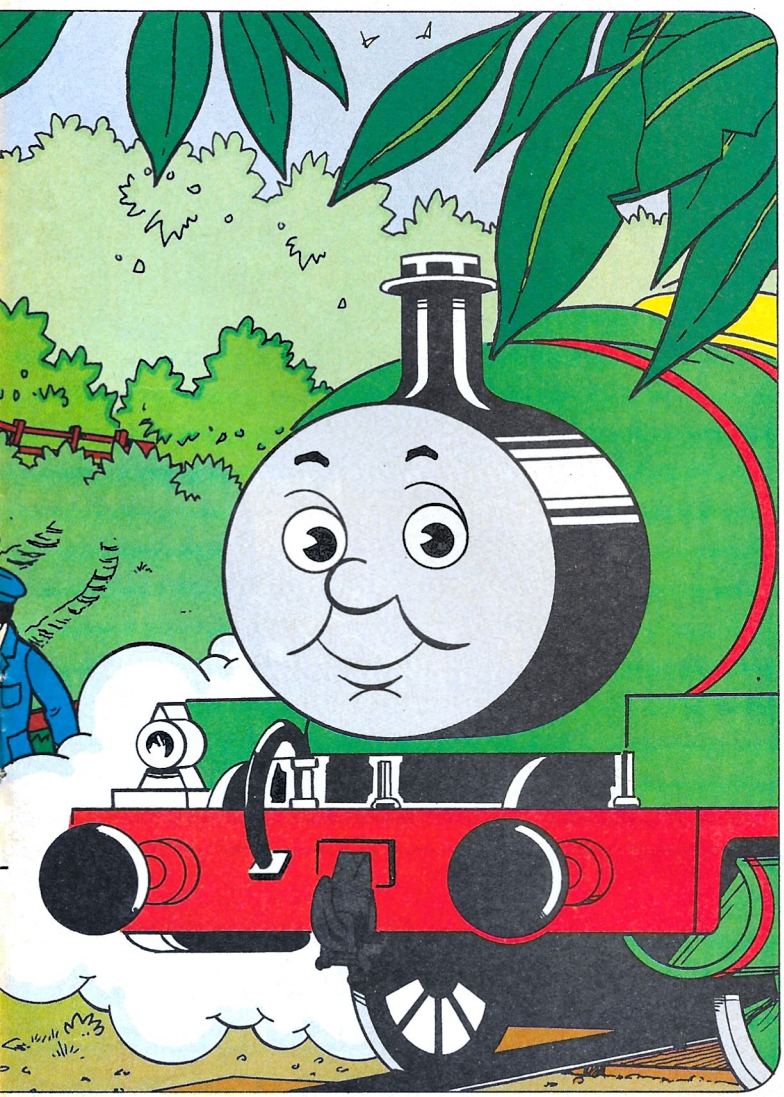
"Sorry!" replied Terence. "I



was trying to see if they had found any treasure on the beach!"

"Treasure!" laughed Terence's driver. "Don't be silly! They're building a breakwater to help stop the force of the waves washing the beach away!"

"Percy was pulling my caterpillar treads!" said Terence, crossly. Suddenly, his driver spotted a small, unusual object in the earth and bent down to pick it up. He put it in his pocket while Terence finished his day's work.



When Percy arrived next morning, so the breakwater could be completed, he was surprised to see men digging in Terence's field.

"They're digging for treasure!" explained Terence, with a grin. Percy would not believe him. But then Terence's driver walked over to show Percy's driver something. "It's a fossil!" he said, as Percy overheard.

"Terence uncovered it yesterday so I contacted the museum. Experts are digging for more because they are of great importance!" Percy was speechless!

"Fossils are the remains or shapes of creatures and plants, preserved in rock, from a very long time ago!" Terence told him proudly. "They are looking for fossilised signs of huge, olden-day creatures, called dinosaurs!"

When Terence's picture appeared in the local paper with a story called: 'Treasure-hunting Tractor', how Percy wished he hadn't teased him. **THE END!**

Off we go ag

Which engine can you see?
What are the names of his faithful carriages?
How many guards can you see?
Point to the timetable!

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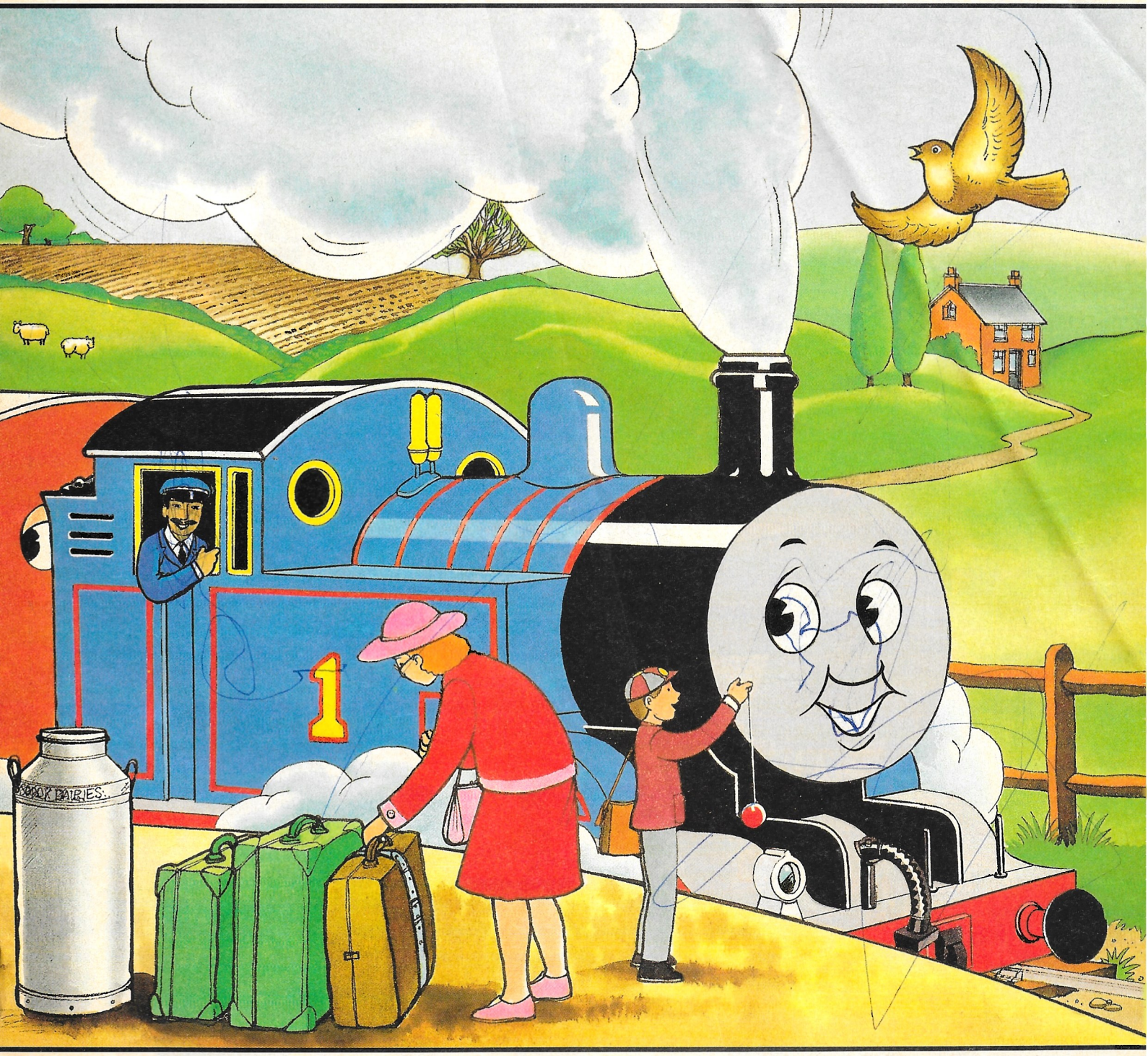


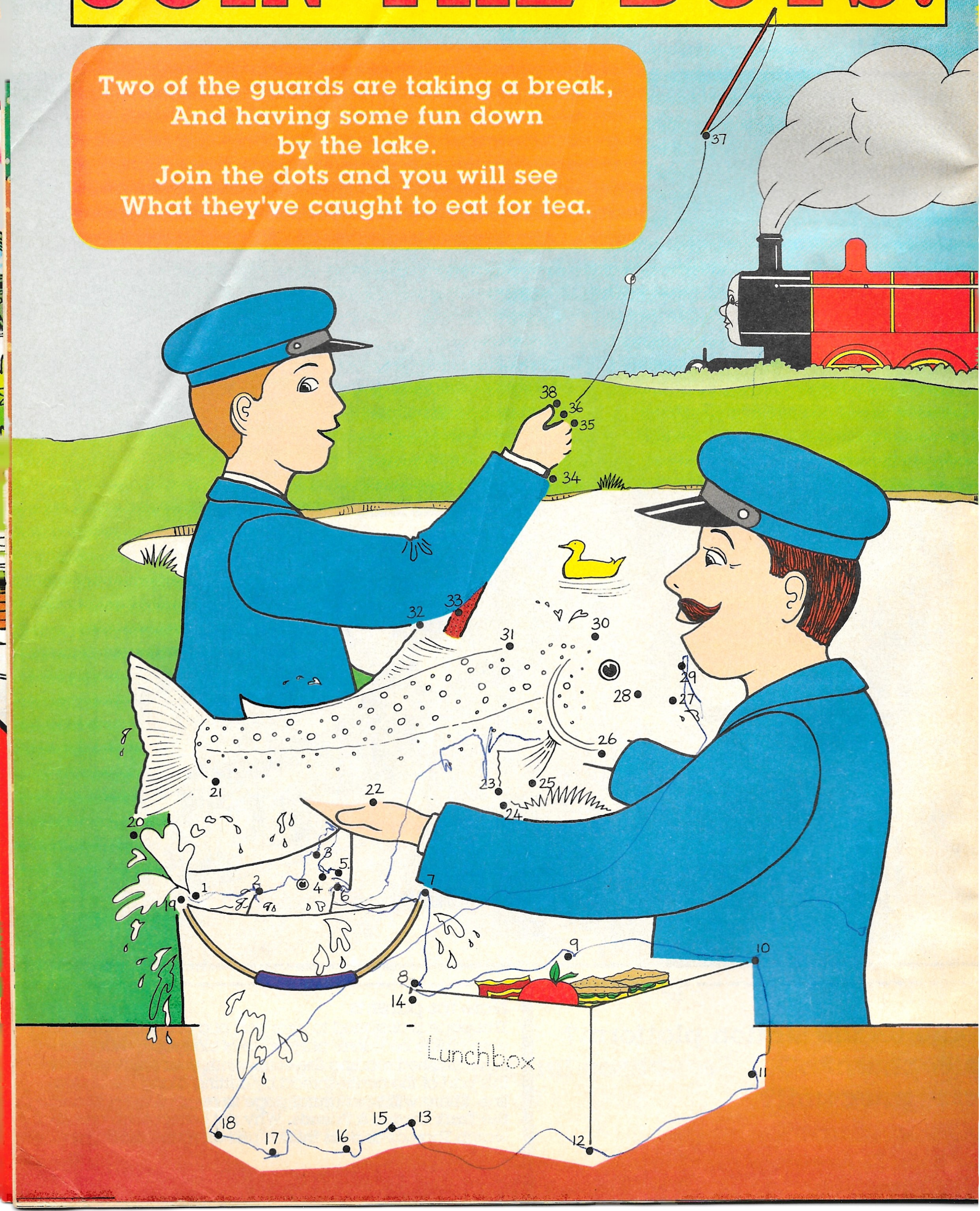
ple are on the station platform?
e milk churn?
s can you count?
!

Note for parents
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Past the lake!

JOIN THE DOTS!

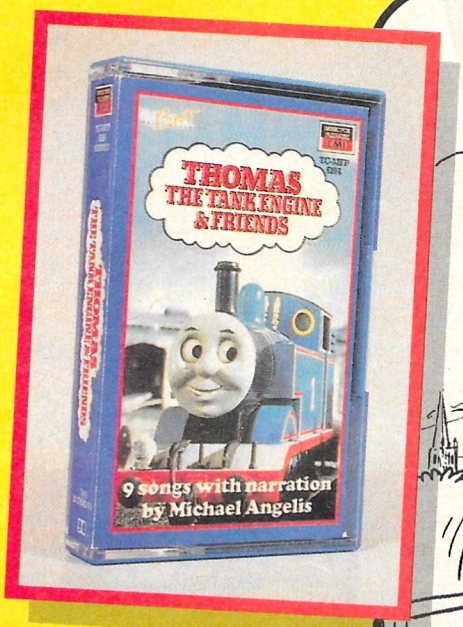
Two of the guards are taking a break,
And having some fun down
by the lake.
Join the dots and you will see
What they've caught to eat for tea.



WIN A SPLENDID COLLECTION OF THOMAS SONGS!

We have 130 Thomas Cassettes to be won but you can also find them in all good book and record stores priced around £3.99. Alternatively, send a cheque for £4.49 made payable to:

EMI Records, Music for Pleasure, PO Box 33, 1-3 Uxbridge Rd, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 OSY.

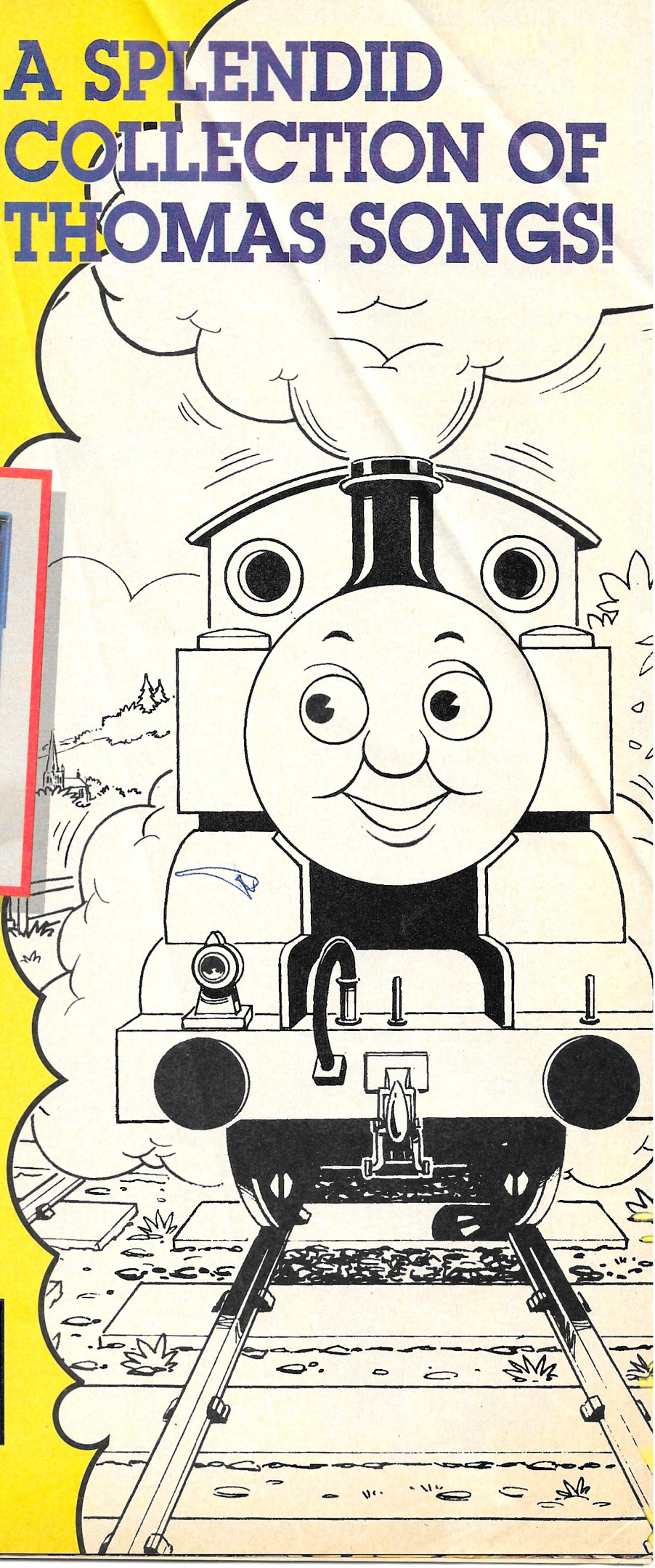


How to enter:

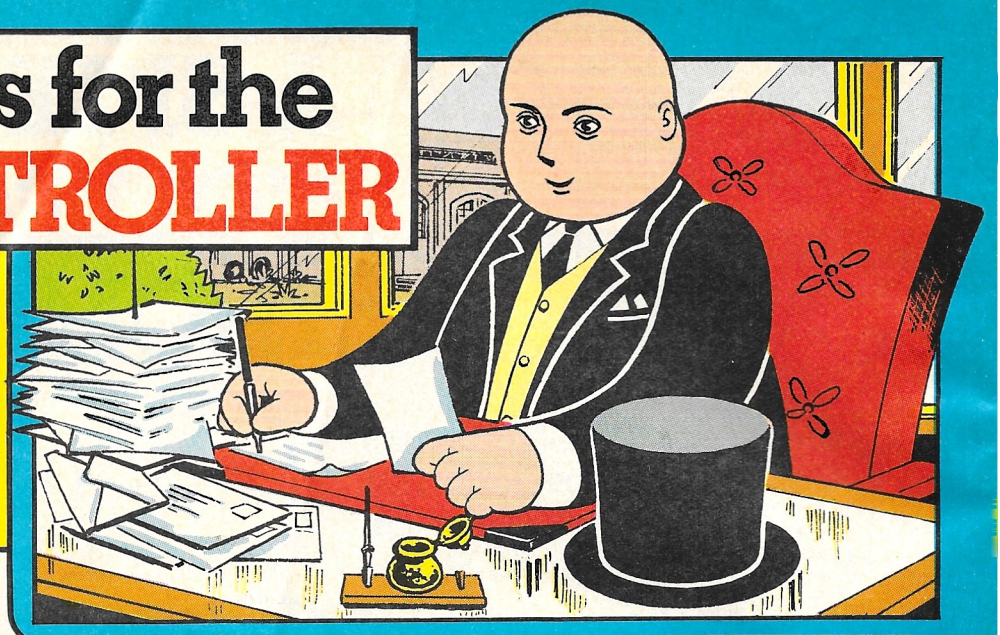
You can win your very own Thomas Cassette when you colour the picture opposite and send this complete page to *Thomas/Music for Pleasure Competition, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2R 3DX* by **April 8th 1994.**

COMPETITION RULES: This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Ltd and Music for Pleasure, EMI Records. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

MUSIC FOR PLEASURE
EMI



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

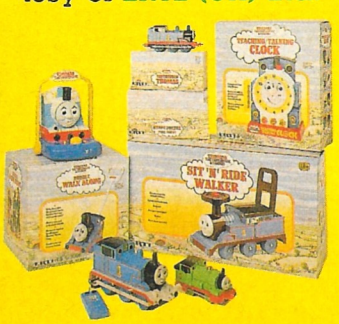
STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
When my mum and dad took me to see Thomas and friends at Bury, I could not believe my luck. Boco helped Thomas to pull the carriages we were travelling on until we arrived at Ramsbottom Station!

Love from **Callum MacNeill**, aged 3.

I'm glad Boco was able to help you and all the passengers reached their destination. He is a very helpful engine. I'm sure Thomas was also glad to meet you!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



FRIENDLY RAILWAY!

Dear Fat Controller,
I think you and all your engines are very nice. I also think your engines really like you!

Love from **James Tabbemor**, aged 7.

Thank you for your kind and thoughtful letter. I do agree! I enjoy the friendship of all my engines and railway staff. But we also know that being good friends means that we are happy to work hard and help one another.

PRETTY ISLAND!

Dear Fat Controller,
I wanted to tell you about my holiday on the Isle of Man. They have some lovely engines there that are just like Thomas and his friends. My grandpa and grandma said that the Isle of Man is very similar to the Island of Sodor.

Love from **Christopher Morris**, aged 4.

Yes! I believe there are some very scenic and interesting sites to be seen on the Isle of Man, including some interesting castles in Port Erin and Castletown. There is also a very pretty miniature railway there.

BIRTHDAYS!

Special greetings go out to...

Linda Kavanagh, Edward Bloom, Andrew Marshall, Anthony Nixon, Richard Luke Dolphin, Roshan Patel, Shane Conway, Timothy David Hall, James Peter Hichs, Jourdan Prince and Simon Osborne.

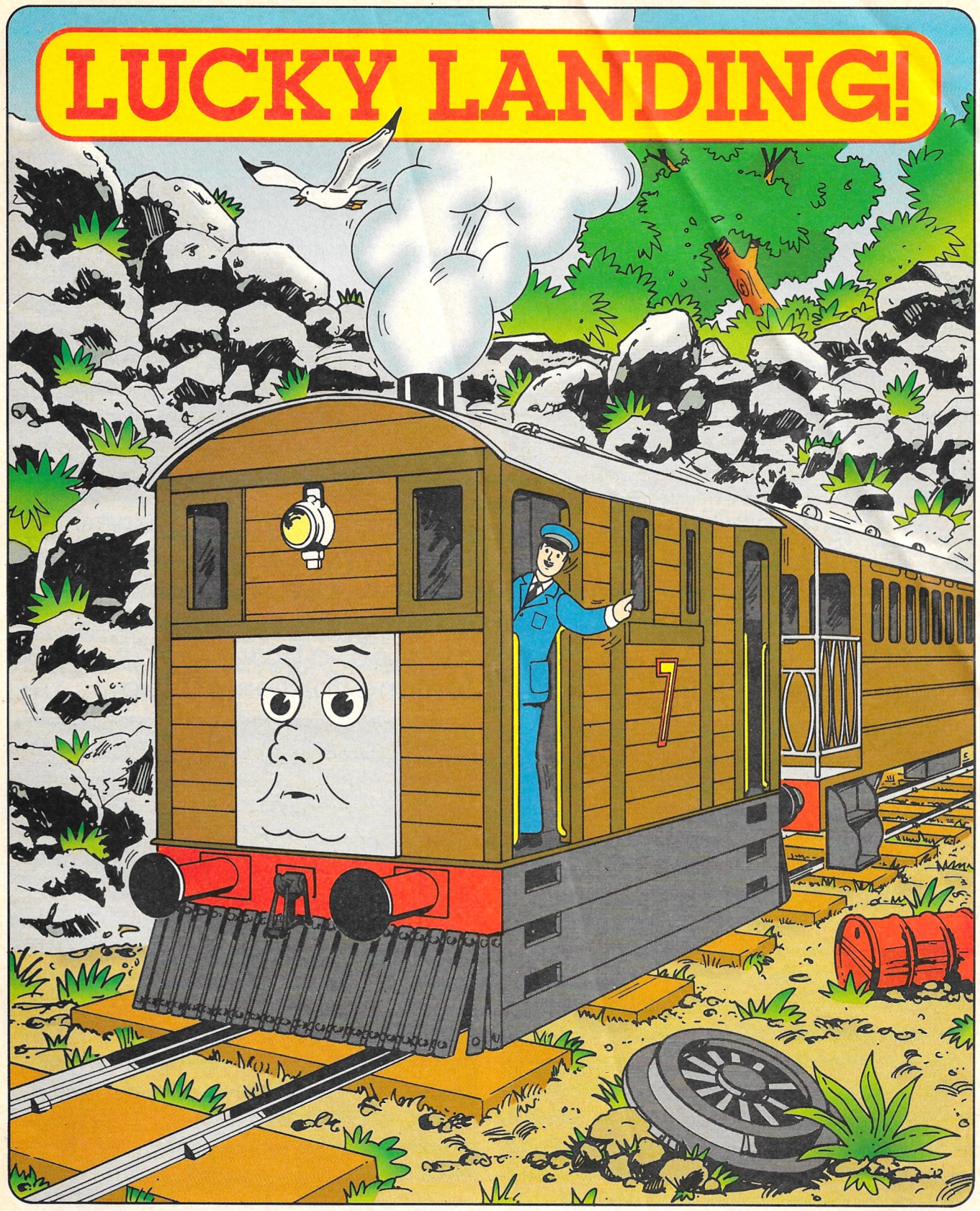
If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

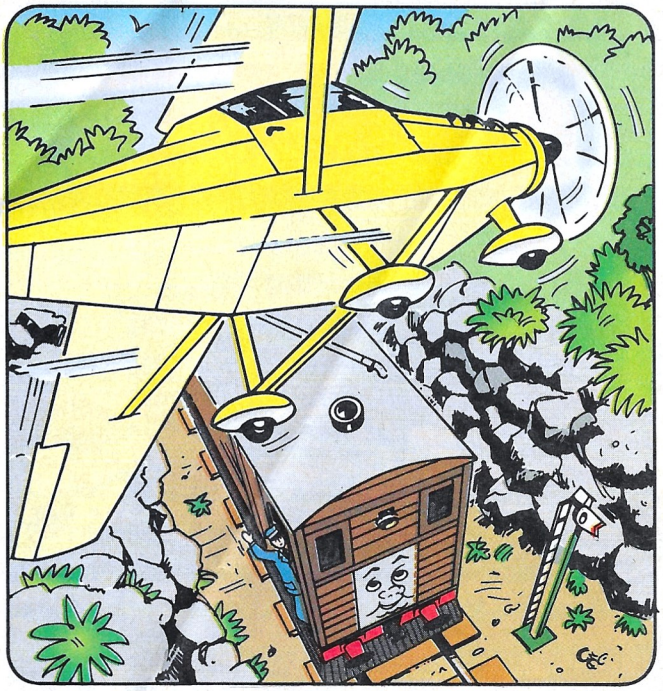
The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

LUCKY LANDING!

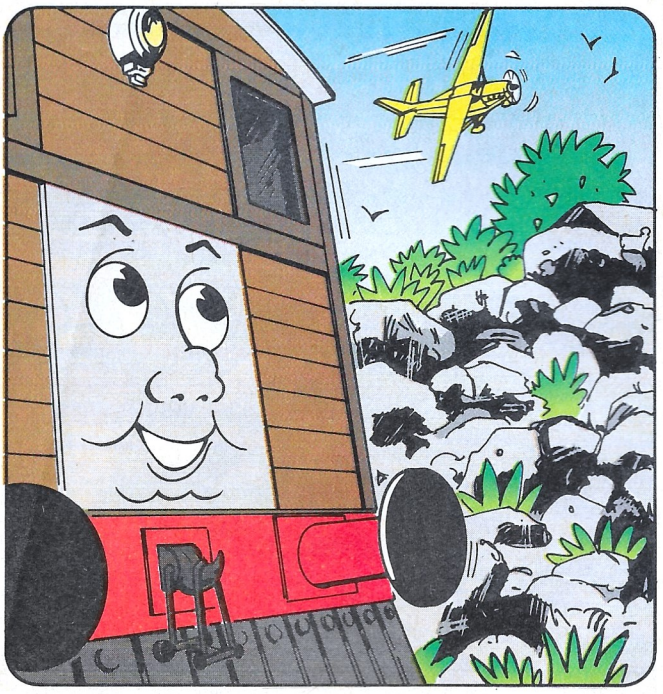


1. Working on his outlying quarry line, Toby the steam-driven tram engine sometimes felt that he missed all the excitement of being on a busy main line.

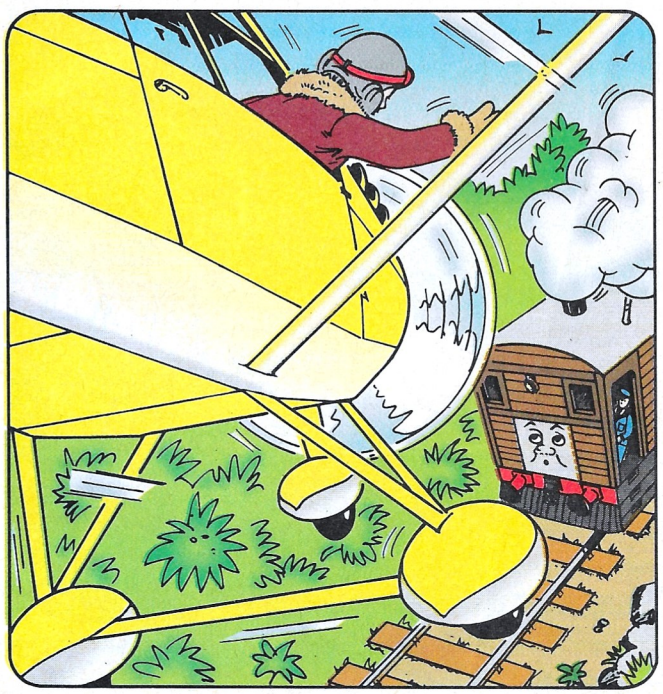
2. "Nothing much ever happens here," he told his faithful coach, Henrietta. "We hardly see anyone all day. Just for once, I'd like a real adventure!"



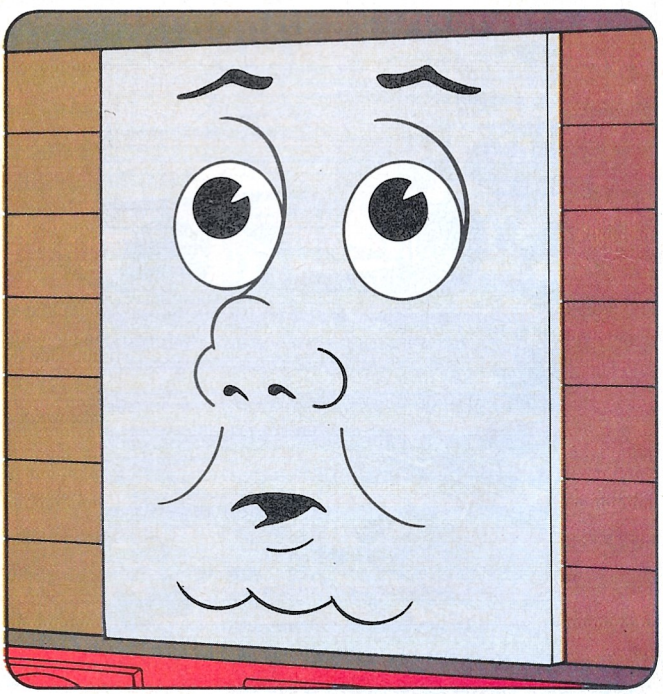
3. While Toby waited at a signal, he spotted a small aircraft fly past. "Look , Henrietta!" he cried. Toby whistled eagerly to the plane. "Pheep! Hello!"



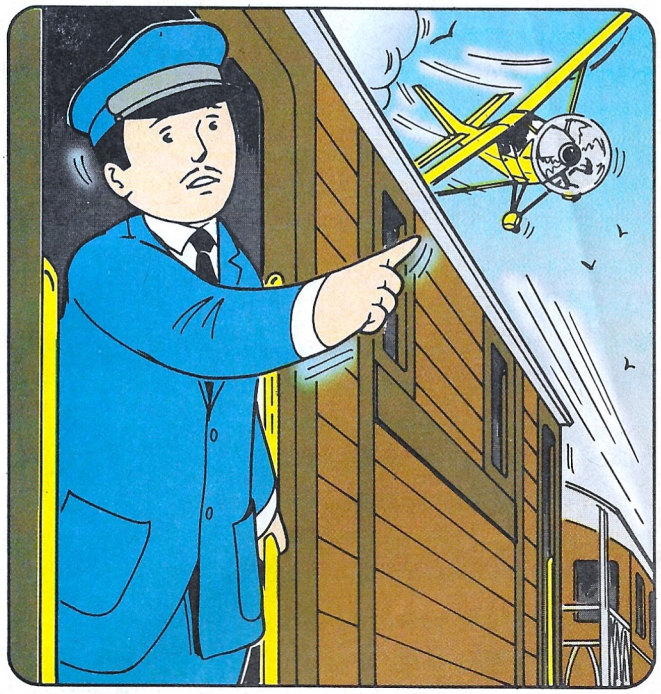
4. When Toby steamed on his way, he was surprised to see the light aircraft coming back. This time, it circled above Toby as if looking for something.



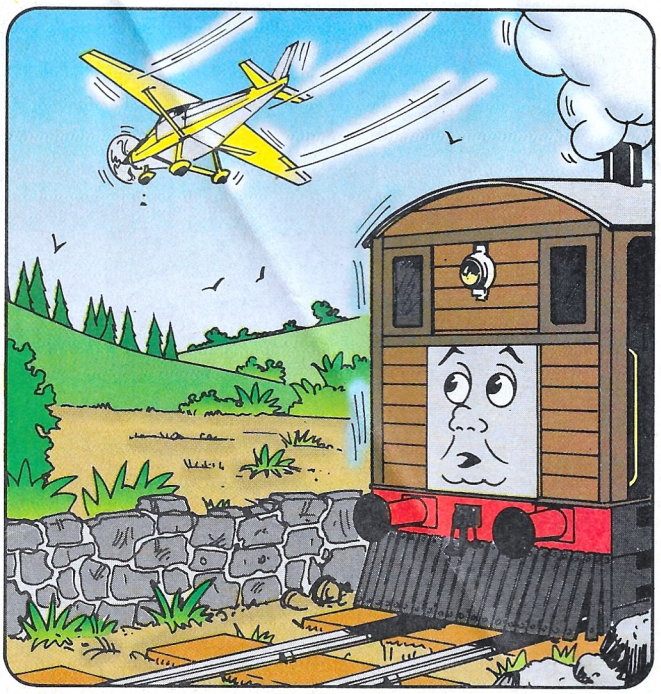
5. Next moment, the plane dived towards him and the pilot waved frantically. "I think he's in trouble and wants our help!" Toby called to his driver.



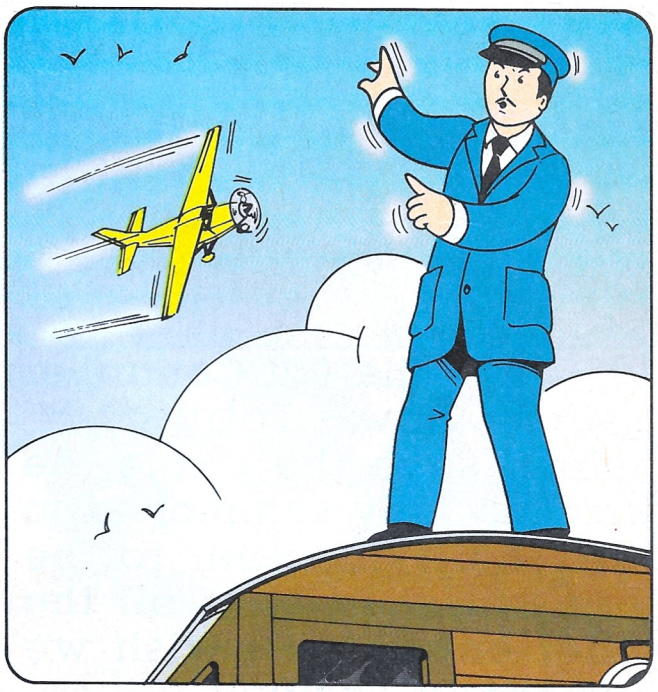
6. "Perhaps he needs to land the plane urgently," the driver replied. "But most of the quarry land is scattered with dangerous rocks." Toby had an idea.



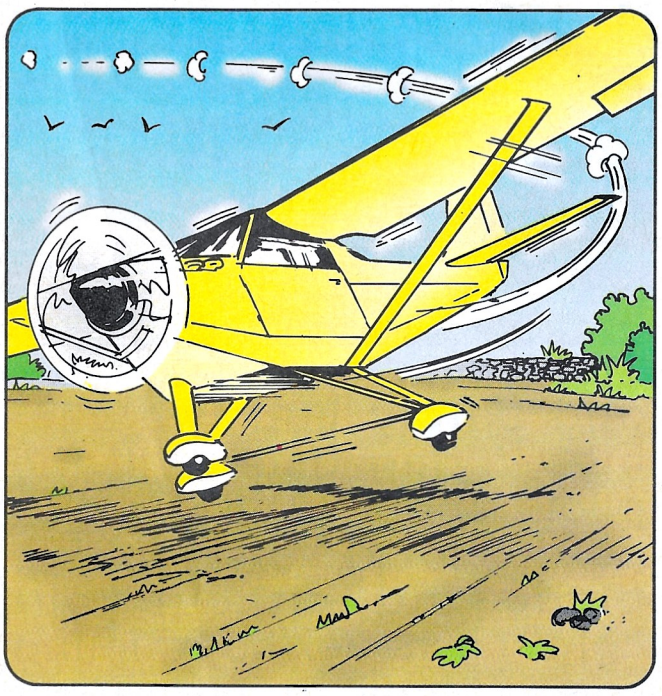
7. "I know this area like the back of my boiler!" he said. "I can lead the pilot to a safe landing place!" Toby whistled and his driver beckoned the plane.



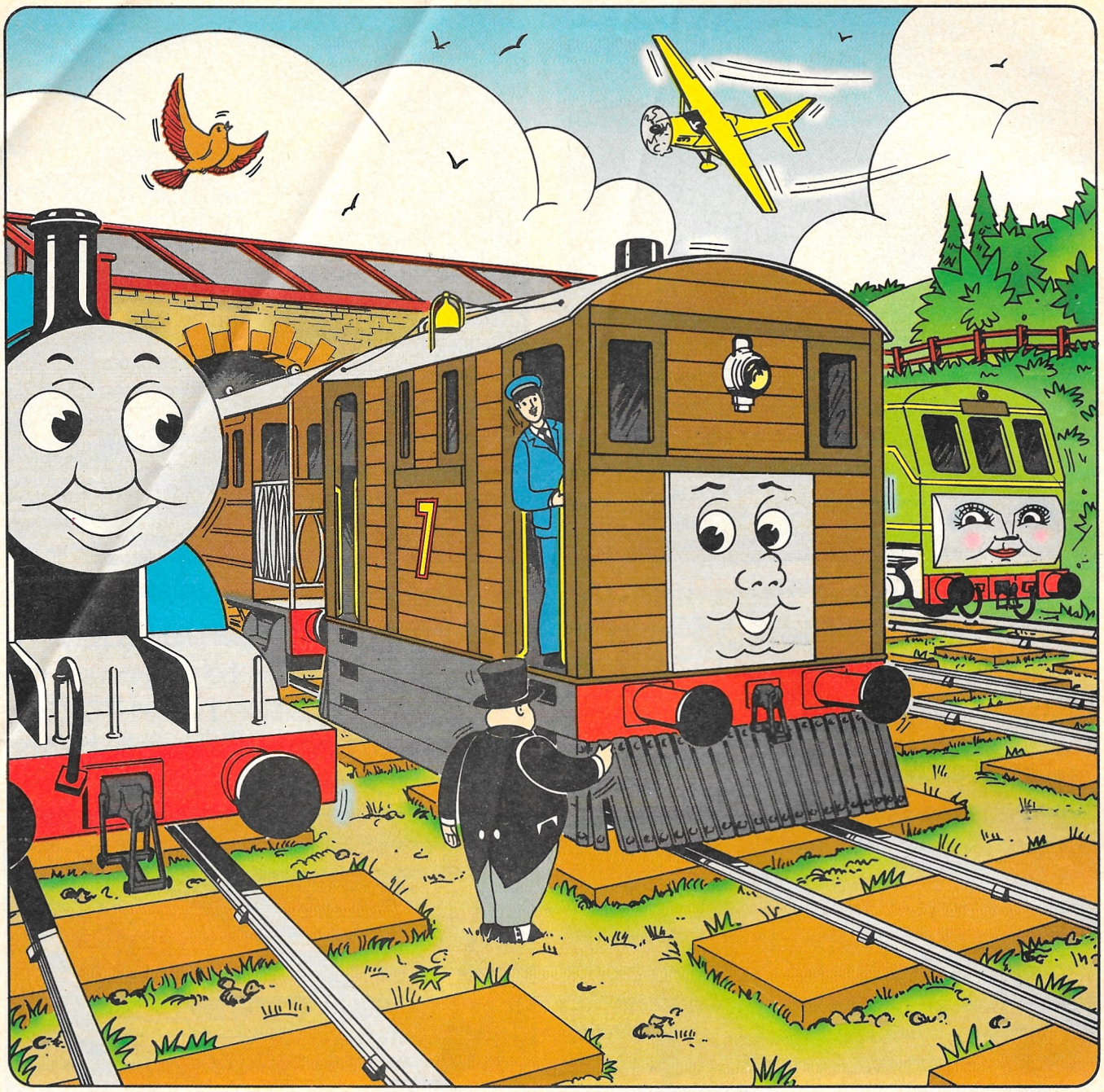
8. Luckily, the pilot understood and followed Toby as he steamed towards an empty field. Then Toby pulled up sharply with a hiss and squeal of brakes.



9. His driver climbed on to the cab roof and quickly pointed to the field. Toby hardly dared to watch as the plane dipped lower and lower towards the ground.



10. At last, it touched down bumpily but safely and rolled along the field until it stopped. Toby and his driver were relieved to see the pilot appear.



11. "I was very low on fuel and barely had two minutes' flying time left!" the pilot explained. "I was desperate for a safe landing place and without your help, I'd never have found one in time!" Toby quickly took the pilot to the nearest airfield to fetch more fuel so he could fly off again.

12. When the Fat Controller heard how Toby had helped save the plane, he was specially summoned to the Main Station to be thanked in front of all the other engines. "I wish we had really exciting adventures like that!" they huffed. "You should come and work on the quarry line, like me!" said Toby proudly.

THE END!

In our next issue: Clockwork Engines!

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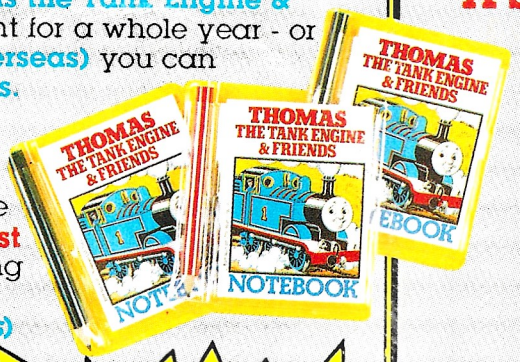

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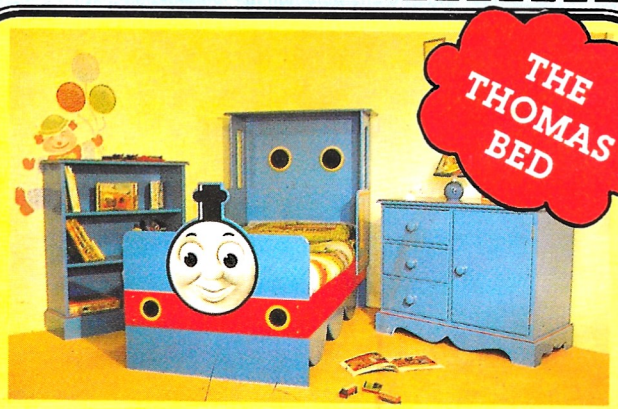

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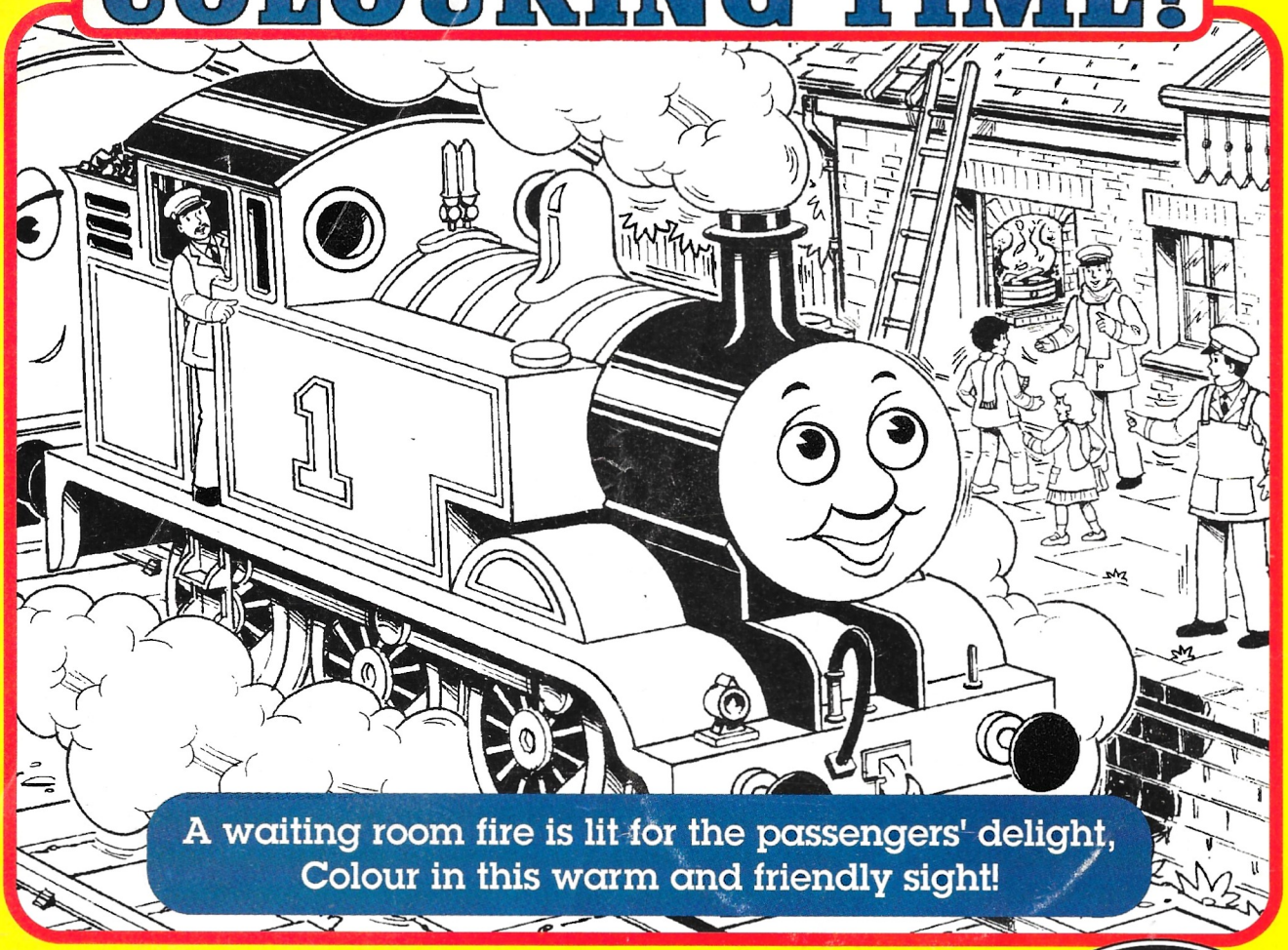

A waiting room fire is lit for the passengers' delight,
Colour in this warm and friendly sight!

OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Don't miss our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine for your **FREE Crayon** gift! Remember! You will also have the opportunity of winning a Thomas outfit from the new Woolworths Ladybird range.

Issue 168 will be in your local newsagent from the **12th March 1994**!